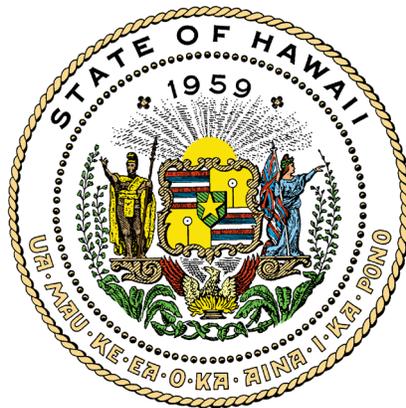


# State of Hawaii's Sister-States



**Business Development & Support Division  
Department of Business, Economic  
Development & Tourism**

**December 2022**

A Report to the Legislature of the State of Hawaii  
Prepared pursuant to Act 150, SLH 2006



## Hawaii Sister-State Committee

As of 2022, the Hawaii Sister-State Committee had five active members filling all seats for this committee.

<b>Jane Clement</b>	Representing: Hawaii State Association of Counties
<b>Kaho'okeleholu Hannahs</b>	Representing: Native Hawaiian Cultural Organization
<b>Kurt Osaki</b>	Representing: Speaker of the House of Representatives
<b>Jean E. Rolles (Vice Chair)</b>	Representing: East-West Center
<b>Eduardo Topenio Jr.</b>	Representing: President of the Senate
<b>Dennis T. Ling</b>	DBEDT – Committee Administration
<b>Mark Ritchie</b>	DBEDT - Committee Administration

With three committee members constituting a quorum, the Committee has been able to meet and continue its focus on the following goals and objectives:

**1. The Committee takes an active role in evaluating prospective and current sister relationships, for both cultural and economic development reasons, with attention to fostering the most productive ties.**

There is agreement that most successful sister relationships occur when:

- a. There is commonality between Hawaii and the sister, primarily from geographical, historical, cultural or economic standpoints.
- b. There are active and interested support groups, such as Chambers of Commerce, cultural and civic associations.

- c. There are economic benefits for both sisters, such as increased numbers of visitors, or enhanced investment or marketing opportunities.
- d. Close ties have been established between educational institutions of the two potential sisters, including both student and faculty exchanges.
- e. There is a clear, strong governmental interest in not only forming, but maintaining the relationship.

**2. To assure the productivity and viability of a sister relationship, the Committee has further reviewed and revised the sister-state application form. Last year, the Committee also reviewed and revised the Policies and Procedures Manual which governs the process of nominating and evaluating prospective and existing sister-states.**

In addition to completing the revised application form, additional requirements include:

- a. A letter from the Governor of the proposed sister.
- b. A designated point-of-contact person.
- c. Recent activity reports between Hawaii and the proposed sister.
- d. Recommendations for future activities.

**3. The Committee periodically reviews the activities of each sister relation to determine which ties should be strengthened and which should be severed. The State has 20 sister relationships, dating back to 1981. Some relationships have been very active (e.g., Hiroshima, Fukuoka, Okinawa, Taiwan and Guangdong), while others have shown little or no activity (e.g., Azores Islands).**

<b>SISTER-STATES (Chronological order)</b>		
<b>COUNTRY</b>	<b>PROVINCE/PREFECTURE</b>	<b>YEAR ESTABLISHED</b>
Japan	Fukuoka	1981
Portugal	Azores Islands	1982
Greater China	Guangdong	1985
Japan	Okinawa	1985
Philippines	Ilocos Sur	1985
Korea	Jeju	1986
Greater China	Hainan	1992
Greater China	Taiwan	1993
Philippines	Cebu	1996
Japan	Hiroshima	1997
Philippines	Pangasinan	2002
Japan	Ehime	2003
Philippines	Ilocos Norte	2005
Philippines	Isabela	2006
Morocco	Rabat-Sale-Zemmour-Zaer	2011
Indonesia	Bali	2014
Japan	Hokkaido	2017
India	Goa	2018
Japan	Yamaguchi	2022
Portugal	Madeira (Approved, but not signed yet)	202X

<b>SISTER-STATES (Alphabetical order by country and area)</b>		
<b>COUNTRY</b>	<b>PROVINCE/PREFECTURE</b>	<b>YEAR ESTABLISHED</b>
Greater China	Guangdong	1985
	Hainan	1992
	Taiwan	1993
India	Goa	2018
Indonesia	Bali	2014
Japan	Fukuoka	1981
	Okinawa	1985
	Hiroshima	1997
	Ehime	2003
	Hokkaido	2017
	Yamaguchi	2022
Korea	Jeju	1986
Morocco	Rabat-Sale-Zemmour-Zaer	2011
Philippines	Ilocos Sur	1985
	Cebu	1996
	Pangasinan	2002
	Ilocos Norte	2005
	Isabela	2006
Portugal	Azores Islands	1982
	Madeira (Approved, but not signed yet)	202X

## **GREATER CHINA**

### **Guangdong Province (1985)**

In August 2022, DBEDT and Synergistic Hawai'i Agriculture Council (SHAC) organized a virtual coffee presentation to introduce Hawai'i coffee to the Chinese market. With the support of the Agricultural Trade Office (ATO) based in Guangzhou, 26 companies participated the virtual event, including JD Mall, HotelEX, coffee distributors, coffee shop owners, and coffee roasteries.

As a result of the virtual coffee event, ATO Guangzhou has become enthusiastic about promoting Hawai'i coffee. The ATO office is planning to organize a similar virtual coffee event in the future, focusing on promoting the Hawai'i coffee industry in Guangdong Province.

In July 2022, the Guangdong Foreign Affairs Office invited Hawai'i schools to join the 2022 GD Youth Link Painting and Calligraphy Competition. One of the organizers was the Guangdong People's Association for Friendship. 'Iolani School and Pearl City Highlands Elementary School attended the competition and won awards.

Also in 2022, Sun Yat-sen Memorial Secondary School at Zhongshan invited Punahou school to an online musical collaboration that honors a 25-year partnership between the cities of Honolulu and Zhongshan, the birthplace of Sun Yat-sen. The two schools have been in a sister-school relationship since 2016.

Due to the pandemic, there had not been any Sister-State activities between Guangdong and Hawai'i in 2021. However, during this time the State of Hawaii Beijing Office (SHOB) maintained relations and discussions with the Guangdong Foreign Affairs Office and the Office of the Guangdong People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries.

### **Hainan Province (1992)**

In 2022 Hawai'i and Hainan celebrated the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their Sister-State Relationship; however, due to COVID restrictions in China, Hawai'i and Hainan were unable to plan a commemorative celebration.

There were not any other Sister-State activities between Hainan and Hawai'i in 2021 due to the pandemic. However, the State of Hawaii Beijing Office (SHOB) maintained relations and discussions with the Investment Officer of Hainan's Department of Commerce and the Hainan Provincial Bureau of International Economic Development (IEDB) for possible cooperation in the future.

### **Taiwan (1993)**

On December 4, 2022, the State of Hawai'i was invited by the Council of Indigenous Peoples (CIP) to deliver a speech at the 2022 Indigenous Youth Employment Function and Exchange Activity, where 40 university students from Taiwan and Pacific Island nations attended. The State of Hawai'i Taipei Office (SHOT) represented Hawaii and delivered a speech.

In November 2022, the Taiwan Ministry of Economic Affairs (MOFA) invited foreign journalists to attend the World Journalist Mission to Taiwan. Hawai'i journalists attended as part of this mission from the U.S. to Taiwan.

On November 16, 2022, two coffee experts from Hawai'i, Ms. Madeleine Longoria Garcia and Mr. Miguel Meza, were invited to be guest speakers at the 2022 Pacific Rim Coffee Summit, which is the largest Taiwan coffee event held annually in Taipei with over 300 people attending.

On November 11, 2022, the Director-General of North America Affairs, Taiwan Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), Mr. Douglas Yu-Tien Hsu, held a working lunch event with

representatives of the United States offices to share their activities over the year. The State of Hawaii was one of the invitees that attended.

In October 2022, DBEDT and the Synergistic Hawaii Agriculture Council (SHAC) held a reverse trade mission for Taiwan coffee buyers to visit coffee farms in Hawai'i. 12 people representing 8 different companies attended the 8-day mission to make connections between Taiwan buyers and the Hawai'i coffee industry.

In September 2022, DBEDT and the Synergistic Hawaii Agriculture Council (SHAC) organized and conducted a 2022 Virtual Hawai'i Coffee Mart in Taipei to promote Hawai'i Coffee and encouraged buyers to attend the reverse trade mission to Hawaii. Over 50 buyers attended the event.

On August 31, 2022, the State of Hawai'i was invited to attend an annual U.S. Business Day event organized by the Bureau of Foreign Trade, Taiwan Ministry of Economic Affairs (MOFA). SHOT attended and gave a 30-minute presentation to promote investment and import/export opportunities with Hawai'i.

In August 2022, SHOT represented the State of Hawai'i at the opening ceremony of the 2022 Indigenous Rights Forum organized by the Council of Indigenous Peoples (CIP). On January 13, 2022, the State of Hawai'i was invited by the Council of Indigenous Peoples (CIP) to attend the Austronesia Forum and Executive Council Meeting. SHOT represented the State at the event.

In December 2021, SHOT, the Synergistic Hawaii Agriculture Council (SHAC), and DBEDT hosted a virtual coffee mart in Kaohsiung to promote Hawaii's coffee industry in Taiwan.

On October 5, 2021, Hawaii was invited by the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (TECO) to participate in the annual U.S. Business Day in Taipei to promote bilateral

trade and investment ties between Taiwan and Hawaii. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the event in 2021 was a hybrid event.

Starting in September 2021, SHOT is assisting Hawaii to establish a travel bubble agreement between Taiwan and Hawaii. The process is still on-going.

## **INDIA**

### **Goa (2018)**

On October 2, 2020 the Honorable Governor of Goa, Pramod Savant participated in a webinar organized by Honolulu-based Gandhi International Institute for Peace.

In July 2021 face masks, face shields and PPE gowns were donated by the Gandhi International Institute for Peace & the Hawaii Sister State Committee to the Government of Goa to assist them during the COVID-19 crisis.

## **INDONESIA**

### **Bali, Indonesia (2014)**

No activities reported for 2020-2021.

## **JAPAN**

### **Fukuoka Prefecture (1981)**

The Hawaii Fukuoka Kenjin Kai (HFKK) is the point-of-contact for many activities together with the Fukuoka Prefectural Government.

The celebration of the 40th anniversary of Hawaii's Sister State relationship with Fukuoka in August resulted in the development of a new sister school relationship between Washington Middle School and Jyoyo Hokuzei Gakuen in Yame City. Both schools have a past connection to the late U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye, and principals are committed to having students learn about each other's culture and history and will work together to provide a mutually beneficial student exchange program.

In November 2022, a goodwill mission by a global leadership team of six secondary school principals and two complex area superintendents led by Hawaii Department of Education (HDOE) Superintendent Keith Hayashi and Board of Education Chair Bruce Voss visited six prefectures in Japan that have relationships with Hawaii, including Fukuoka.

During the visit to Fukuoka, HDOE officials toured Kyushu Sangyo University (KSU) and discussed possible short-term visits by Hawaii High School students. The delegation also met with representatives of the Fukuoka Prefectural Board of Education.

Also in 2022, DBEDT welcomed 22 officials representing the Fukuoka Prefectural Assembly and related government organizations. During the visit, the delegation made courtesy calls on Governor David Y. Ige and representatives of the Hawaii State Legislature. In addition, the visit included meeting with the University of Hawaii Kapiolani Community College and Fukuoka product promotion activities on Oahu. DBEDT also hosted a reception for the Fukuoka officials at Washington Place that included Fukuoka Kenjin Kai representatives, statewide. The evening reaffirmed Hawaii's commitment to support this important relationship.

The Hawaii Global Education Foundation, in collaboration with HFKK and DBEDT, received a grant-in-aid to develop memorial plaques for Governor George Ariyoshi, former U.S. Senator Daniel Inouye, and former astronaut Ellison Onizuka. The city of Buzen, ancestral hometown of Governor George Ariyoshi, unveiled a display at their City Hall to honor the former Hawaii governor. The display included a bronze plaque gifted to Fukuoka by the State of Hawaii, photographs, and an informational poster of

Governor Ariyoshi's achievements in U.S. and Hawaii politics. Members of Governor Ariyoshi's family visited Buzen during the fall of 2022.

The City of Yame, ancestral hometown of the late U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye, unveiled a commemorative bronze bust in a community park to honor the former United States Senator from Hawaii. The bust was commissioned by the City of Yame with financial support from the State of Hawaii. Adjacent to the park is a community center and a small local museum honoring Senator Inouye. Members of the Inouye family visited Yame City in the fall of 2022.

Family members of the three gentlemen and representatives from the Hawaii Fukuoka Kenjin Kai visited their Fukuoka ancestral hometowns for ceremonial unveilings of the memorial plaques. In addition, the Hawaii delegation met with mayors of the respective cities, Fukuoka Governor Seitaro Hattori and members of the Fukuoka Prefectural Assembly.

Due to the Covid 19 Pandemic, many sister-state initiatives with Fukuoka Prefecture were postponed in 2021. Despite these challenges, three eleven-year-old HFKK youth members participated in monthly Japanese language classes that were sponsored by the Fukuoka International Exchange Foundation. The Foundation may consider an alternative program for eleven-year old youth who typically are hosted in Fukuoka Prefecture; however, due to the pandemic's challenges during the previous two years, an alternative program was considered for 2022.

Each year, the Japan Exchange Teaching (JET) Program is implemented by contracting organizations of Japan in cooperation with the Council of Local Authorities for International Relations (CLAIR), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), and the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC). Because of Hawaii's strong ties through its sister-state relationship with Fukuoka Prefecture, seven Hawaii residents participated in JET in Fukuoka in 2021.

Every year, the Fukuoka Prefectural Government sends college students to different cities for cultural and educational exchanges as part of their Global Stage Program and the State of Hawaii is selected every two or three years to receive students. The Prefectural Government usually deploys eight students from various Fukuoka universities to Hawaii. Although the 2022 program has not been finalized, the prefectural government is likely to send students to Hawaii in 2022.

To promote Fukuoka Prefecture, the HFKK hosted a booth at the Consulate General of Japan during an annual event in honor of the Emperor of Japan. Informational literature and other commemorative items were shared with event attendees.

### **Okinawa Prefecture (1985)**

The Hawaii United Okinawa Association (HUOA) had a busy and productive 2022 in Hawaii and Okinawa.

The 40<sup>th</sup> Okinawan Festival was held in September 2022 at the Hawaii Convention Center. This event attracted over 45,000 community members and visitors back to the largest in-person ethnic festival in the state since 2019.

In October 2022, Governor David Y. Ige and First Lady Dawn Amano-Ige traveled to Okinawa at the invitation of the Okinawa Prefectural Government to participate in the 7<sup>th</sup> Uchinanchu Taikai. Governor Ige had a number of speaking engagements including addressing members of the Lions Club where over 200 business executives were in attendance. Governor Ige also participated as a leader in the Taikai Parade along with U.S. Ambassador Rahm Emanuel and approximately 700 participants from Hawaii.

Nanakuli High and Intermediate's Principal Darin Piliialoha, Superintendent Keith Hayashi and Ewa Makai Middle Principal Kim Sanders visited Chinen High School and Naha International High School during the 2022 Uchinanchu Worldwide Festival in Okinawa. Earlier in 2022, under The Kakehashi Project, a Japanese youth exchange program including 17 high school students from Chinen High School and Naha

International High School visited Oahu's Nanakuli and Waipahu High Schools. Nanakuli High and Intermediate School will also be sending 18 students and two chaperones to Okinawa in 2023.

The Hawaii United Okinawa Association (HUOA) used its creativity in pivoting to new activities as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The HUOA continued hosting a live broadcast "talk story" and music show known as Yuntaku Live on YouTube and Facebook held every two weeks. This live broadcast featured performances, educational programming, and "talk story" topics with guests from Hawaii, Okinawa, and South America.

In conjunction with the HUOA's 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Sister-State agreement with the Okinawa Prefectural government ("OPG"), the HUOA also celebrated the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Hawaii Okinawa Student Exchange Program in coordination with OPG's Department of Education. It was a virtual exchange between 16 students from Hawaii and 20 students from Okinawa that culminated with a video that highlighted similarities and differences in culture and daily life in Hawaii and Okinawa.

Also in 2021, HUOA created a committee of fourth generation (yonsei) volunteers who produced and aired the 2021 virtual Irei No Hi program commemorating the end of the Battle of Okinawa on June 23<sup>rd</sup> on YouTube and Facebook. HUOA aired the Uchinanchu No Hi Virtual (Worldwide Okinawa Day) Program on October 31, 2021.

Due to the pandemic, the 2nd Virtual Okinawan Festival was held September 4-5, 2021. Highlights included performances by Hawaii Okinawa cultural groups; guest performances from Okinawa and a virtual bon dance. Total viewership was over 60,000 views from around the world.

## Hiroshima Prefecture (1997)

Since the establishment of the Hawaii-Hiroshima Sister-State Relationship, the Hiroshima Hawaii Sister State Committee (HHSSC) has worked together with the Hiroshima Prefectural Government on mutually beneficial programs and causes in the spirit of building a partnership of friendship, cooperation and aloha between the people of both regions. It has been the committee's goal to concentrate their collective efforts on programs focused on education; business and economic development; culture and the arts; athletics; and peace initiatives.

2022 was an auspicious year for the Hawaii-Hiroshima Sister-State Relationship with the commemoration of 25 years of establishing this formal relationship between the two regions. The 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary was honored and celebrated in Hiroshima and in Hawaii during 2022.

A delegation of over 60 individuals, led by Governor David Y. Ige and First Lady Dawn Amano-Ige traveled to Hiroshima to commemorate the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Hawaii-Hiroshima Sister-State Relationship. Working in collaboration with the Hawaii-Hiroshima Sister-State Committee, the Hiroshima Prefectural Government and DBEDT, the visit included the following activities and events:

- Courtesy calls on Hiroshima Governor Hidehiko Yuzaki and Hiroshima Prefectural Assembly Chair Takashi Nakamoto;
- A 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala event with entertainment by Hawaii's Jake Shimabukuro and Herb Ohta, Jr. Governor and Mrs. Ige were honored by the Hiroshima Prefectural Government during this event for their dedication and commitment to the relationship through the years. In addition, the Hawaii State Legislature honored Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, Assembly Member Shin Uda and Kamotsuru Sake Brewery for their continued support of the Hawaii-Hiroshima relationship with legislative messages for each honoree;

- Visit to the Orizuru Tower that overlooks the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park and Museum. This visit was hosted by owner Mr. Tetsuya Matsuda;
- Visit to the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park and Museum where the State of Hawaii placed a wreath at the monument;
- Tour of the Mazda Museum and Factory;
- Signing of a sister-library agreement between the Hawaii State Public Library System and the Hiroshima Prefectural Library;
- Attendance at a Hiroshima Carp professional baseball game which was billed as "Hawaii Night" where Governor Ige threw the first pitch;
- Visit to Sera Town where a reaffirmation agreement was signed between the Sera Town School Board and Niu Valley Middle School;
- Visit to the state-of-the-art Hiroshima Global Academy which is a prefectural international boarding school where English is the language of instruction;
- Visit to Hiroshima Eikei University which established relationships with University of Hawaii campuses.

Also in 2022, Governor Ige welcomed Governor Hidehiko Yuzaki and a delegation of 27 officials to Hawaii. The delegation attended many events on Oahu and on Hawaii Island.

During their stay, the delegation was represented at the following activities and events:

- Visit to Pearl Harbor National Memorial where Governor Yuzaki and Assembly Chairperson Takashi Nakamoto presented wreaths to honor the memory of those who lost their lives during the Pearl Harbor attack;
- Meetings with Governor Ige and Hawaii State Legislators;
- Governor Yuzaki and delegation made a stop at the Hiroshima Torii Gate where a brief program and ceremony was arranged by the Honolulu Japanese Chamber of Commerce;
- Visit to the University of Hawaii where Eikei University and the University of Hawaii at Manoa entered into an exchange agreement;

- Visit and tour of the Hawaii State Library as a follow-up to the signing of the sister-library agreement that was held in Hiroshima;
- Attended a special reception at Washington Place hosted by the State of Hawaii where members of the Hiroshima community also attended and met with the visiting officials from Hiroshima;
- Held various activities on Hawaii Island that included special events with the Hiroshima Kenjin Kai in Hilo and Kona and visit to the Puna Geothermal Venture among other site visits.

Also in 2022, as part of the celebration of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Hawaii-Hiroshima Sister-State Relationship, the HDOE renewed its agreement with the Hiroshima Prefectural Board of Education as two new superintendents signed a three-year agreement of education collaboration committing to a new and stronger educational relationship between Hiroshima and Hawaii.

The Hiroshima Global Academy and Kaiser High School also signed a new sister-school agreement as both schools seek to focus their efforts on their International Baccalaureate Diploma Programmes.

For 2021, due to the threat of the Corona Virus Pandemic and the restrictions/mandates imposed since March 2020, a number of programs/events were postponed or cancelled for the year. However, the HHSSC initiated and participated in the following programs/events with the help of the Honolulu Hiroshima Kenjin Kai (HHKK):

### EDUCATION:

- Honolulu Hiroshima Kenjin Kai (HHKK) College Scholarship

The recipient studied Global Studies at Ritsumeikan University in Kyoto, Japan.

- Hiroshima International Student Exchange Program

With the threat of the pandemic and continuing travel restrictions to Japan, the Hiroshima International Student Exchange Program was held “virtually” during the weekends of July/August 2021. Five high school students joined in this interesting and informative educational opportunity.

- Development of Video for Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics:

At the request of the Hiroshima Prefectural Government, a video featuring young children in Honolulu promoting peace was developed. The videos selected were shown to athletes of the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics in July 2021.

The video was filmed at the Makiki Christian Church Pre-School and featured three year-old students promoting “maluhia” which is the Hawaiian word for peace. The video also featured the Makiki Christian Church, which was built in 1931 and has been the only Christian Church in the United States designed to look like a 16<sup>th</sup> century Japanese castle.

### BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

- Honolulu Hiroshima Kenjin Kai participated in the Global “Hiroshima-Hawaii Friendship Bridge” Program
- On October 24, 2021, directors of the HHKK participated in a unique in-person and virtual Conference of the “Hiroshima-Hawaii Friendship Bridge” program. This organization worked with the Goto of Hiroshima Foundation and presented a virtual “We Love Hawaii” program. The HHKK participants promoted the State of Hawaii to people in Hiroshima and other regions of Japan.

### PEACE INITIATIVES:

- Promoted the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Exhibition in Honolulu in 2020 and 2021. Mr. Wayne Miyao, President of the HHSSC was named by then

Mayor Kirk Caldwell to promote the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Exhibition. A promotional plan was developed and implemented to encourage attendance to this joint Exhibition. The plan focused on generating attendance to this Exhibition from schools, businesses, and community groups as well as visitors from Japan especially those visiting Hawaii from Hiroshima and Tokyo.

### OTHER PROGRAMS:

- HHKK Face Masks to Hiroshima and Tokyo -- Funds were raised for the development and production of HHKK face masks. In late February 2021, the HHKK gifted the following Hiroshima organizations with these face masks:
  - a. 200 masks to the Hiroshima Prefectural Government including the Prefectural Assembly
  - b. 200 to Hiroshima City Government including City Council, and Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum
  - c. 50 to Tokyo Hiroshima-Ken People's Organization

The response received from the Hiroshima government and “sister” Kenjin Kai were overwhelmingly positive. Governor Hidehiko Yuzaki said, “I was deeply touched by all of your kindhearted thoughtfulness, and it once again reminded me of the deep friendships that we have fostered.” Mayor Kazumi Matsui remarked, “The mask is really good because it is light and comfortable to wear. The color black has a strong impact and looks cool.” The HHKK face masks were sent to the Hiroshima Prefectural Government and Hiroshima City Government as a token of appreciation for the many programs and activities that they have supported over the years. The face masks served as a reminder of the friendships between Hawaii and Hiroshima. Regarding the face masks sent to the Tokyo Hiroshima-Ken People's Organization, President Miyao elaborated, “We established the “sister” Kenjin Kai relationship in January of 2020. Unfortunately, with the threat of the Corona Virus Pandemic, several programs

were postponed. The gift of the HHKK face masks helped to re-establish HHKK's budding relationship with this organization.”

PENDING PROGRAM/INITIATIVES:

- Hiroshima Peace Garden: Working with the City and County of Honolulu to propose the creation of a Hiroshima Peace Garden in Honolulu.
- Establishment of “Sister” Park relationship between Pearl Harbor and Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum: In Process

**Ehime Prefecture (2003)**

In February 2022, a traditional memorial service for the Ehime Maru was held by the Japan-America Society of Hawaii at the Kakaako Waterfront Park. Consul General Yutaka Aoki, Governor David Y. Ige and Honolulu Mayor Rick Blangiardi laid wreaths during the ceremony.

In August 2022, Governor and Mrs. Ige made an official visit to Ehime Prefecture which was the first visit by a Hawaii Governor. During this visit, they met with Governor Tokihiro Nakamura and Ehime Prefectural Assembly Speaker, Hiroshi Watanabe. In addition, Governor and Mrs. Ige traveled to Uwajima City and met with Uwajima's Mayor Fumiaki Okahara and presented a floral bouquet at the Ehime Maru Memorial at the Uwajima Fisheries High School. It was also an opportunity for the Governor and First Lady to meet with bereaved family members of the Ehime Maru.

From September 30 – October 4, 2022, eight students representing high schools in Ehime traveled to Hawaii to participate in a cultural exchange hosted by the Ehime Prefectural International Center (EPIC). EPIC has organized this exchange program that annually sends students from Ehime to Hawaii. Students visited various sites on Oahu such as the Ehime Maru Memorial, University of Hawaii and Honolulu Hale. They

also participated in a two-day home visit with students from Punahou and St. Louis Schools. They also visited Punahou School to experience school life in Hawaii and made presentations about their hometowns, culture and school activities. They also had an exchange meeting with the Moanalua High School Japanese Club members.

Also in 2022, discussions were held regarding the future of the Hawaii-Ehime Youth Baseball Exchange that was established in 2001, following the Ehime Maru incident, by the late Dr. Seiji Naya and Ehime Council Member Mr. Junnosuke Kaino. The exchange has been held every year since then, alternating between Ehime and Hawaii until 2020, when the exchange was put on hold due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The six member delegation from Hawaii who traveled to Ehime in 2022 and the Ehime-Hawaii Executive Committee (Japan) came to a tentative agreement to restart the baseball exchange in 2023 either in Hawaii or Ehime.

In 2021, the Japan-America Society of Hawaii reported that on Tuesday, February 9, 2021, the Ehime Maru Memorial Association (EMMA) held a private remembrance ceremony for the 20th anniversary of the sinking of the Uwajima Fisheries High School training ship Ehime Maru at the Ehime Maru Memorial in Kakaako Waterfront Park. Due to travel restrictions as a result of the pandemic, Hawaii and Ehime did not engage in any other activities in 2021.

### **Hokkaido Prefecture (2017)**

2022 marks the 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Hawaii-Hokkaido Sister-State Relationship. To honor this milestone anniversary, Governor David Y. Ige, representatives of the Hawaii State Legislature and Hokkaido Club Hawaii traveled to Hokkaido.

During the visit, in addition to the customary courtesy visits with Governor Naomichi Suzuki and Assembly Members in Hokkaido, the Hokkaido Prefectural Government hosted an anniversary reception in honor of Governor Ige and the Hawaii delegation.

Attendees were also treated to a live performance by the Ainu who are indigenous citizens of Hokkaido.

International educational exchanges are important to the Hokkaido Prefectural Government similar to Hawaii's interest in fostering and nurturing student exchanges between Hawaii and Hokkaido. In this regard, the prefecture hosted an educational roundtable with Governor Ige and other Hawaii representatives as well as the Superintendent of the Hokkaido Board of Education and representatives of universities and high schools. The dialogue encouraged increasing educational exchanges between Hawaii and Hokkaido beginning in 2023.

The Hawaii delegation also had an opportunity to visit the Kokusai Johou High School to better understand a typical school day for students. The students also treated the Hawaii visitors with a performance that demonstrated their command of the English language.

Also in 2022, the HDOE sent two representatives to Hokkaido to visit the Upopoy National Ainu Museum and Park in Shiraoi Town, Nibutani Ainu Culture Center, and Nibutani Elementary School where efforts to preserve Ainu, a critically endangered indigenous language is being undertaken with a small group of students.

In 2023, Hokkaido will be sending a delegation of 40 people to Hawaii that will include government officials, students and representatives of the Ainu people.

In 2021, the Hokkaido Club Hawaii reported that all physical in-person events were cancelled in 2020 and 2021.

In 2021, the 73<sup>rd</sup> Japan-America Student Conference was held virtually and Hokkaido Club's President, Kanzo Nara was a guest speaker. The event attracted 80 participants from the U.S. and Japan. One of the topics discussed during the forum pertained to Hokkaido's culture and immigration.

The Hawaii-Hokkaido relationship has shown much promise with the numerous activities and exchanges that have occurred through efforts of the Hokkaido Club of Hawaii.

### **Yamaguchi Prefecture (2022)**

The State of Hawaii and the Prefecture of Yamaguchi officially entered into a Sister-State Relationship in 2022. The signing event was held in Suo-Oshima and witnessed by over 30 representatives from Hawaii with Governor David Y. Ige and First Lady Dawn Amano-Ige leading the delegation.

The Honolulu Yamaguchi Kenjin Kai and Kauai Yamaguchi Kenjin Kai were represented during this auspicious occasion. Members of the Hawaii State Legislature also participated in the visit and State Representative Dee Morikawa spoke on behalf of the Hawaii State Legislature and the island of Kauai. Kauai and Suo-Oshima have enjoyed a sister-island relationship since 1963.

Official calls on Governor Tsugumasa Muraoka and Suo-Oshima Mayor Kiyotaka Fujimoto by Governor Ige and the Hawaii delegation were captured by the Japan media. Both sides look forward to strengthening cooperation in various areas including cultural and educational exchanges.

In 1885, the government of Hawaii worked with the Japanese government to implement an immigration policy known as “Kanyaku Immin” where approximately 10,000 immigrants traveled to Hawaii from Yamaguchi Prefecture. There is much historical interest in this relationship including the information that can be found in the Museum of Japanese Emigration to Hawaii that is located in Suo-Oshima.

Also in 2022, three HDOE representatives met with the Superintendent and Vice-Superintendent of the Yamaguchi Prefectural Board of Education. In addition, visits included Suo Oshima and Iwakuni High Schools, Yamaguchi Prefectural University, and

the Museum of Japanese Emigration to Hawaii. As a result of these meetings, plans are being made to establish exchange programs between schools in Yamaguchi and schools Kauai and Oahu.

In January 2023, Governor Muraoka will lead a delegation of 20 officials and 160 students to Hawaii. During this visit, the Hawaii State Legislature and the Yamaguchi Prefectural Assembly have plans to enter into a legislative friendship agreement.

### **KOREA**

#### **Jeju Province (1986)**

This year marked the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Hawaii's sister-state relationship with Jeju. Due to the Covid 19 pandemic, a virtual conference was held in celebration of this milestone. "Carbon Neutralization for the Next Generation: Local Cooperation to Achieve Carbon Net-Zero and Climate Action" was the theme of the conference which included speakers from Hawaii and Jeju. Lieutenant Governor Josh Green and Jeju Lieutenant Governor Manseop Koo gave opening remarks. Maria Tome, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Program Manager from the Hawaii State Energy Office was a featured speaker giving an update on the State's renewable energy efforts. The conference also included a panel of student speakers to talk about their vision for the future. Hawaii was represented by Stacie Bae, a Kalani High School senior.

Government officials from Hawaii and Jeju attended the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) at the Scottish Event Campus (SEC) in Glasgow, Scotland. The delegations from Hawaii and Jeju also met separately to discuss matters related to Hawaii and Korea on November 7, 2021. The delegation from Hawaii included Governor David Ige, Ms. Suzanne Case, Mr. Scott Glen and Ms. Anukriti Hittle. From Korea, Acting Jeju Governor Maseop Koo and other officials met with the Hawaii delegation.

One of the ongoing education exchanges between Hawaii and Jeju Province is the annual Jeju Youth Forum that has been co-organized since 2010 by the Jeju Special Self-Governing Province and Jeju Special Self-Governing Provincial Office of Education with a goal of building a youth network of future global leaders. The Hawaii Department of Education has been instrumental in providing opportunities for Hawaii students from various high schools to participate in this annual event but due to the pandemic, the event was held virtually in 2021.

### **MOROCCO**

#### **Greater Region of Rabat-Sale-Zemmour-Zaer (2011)**

No activities reported in 2021-2022.

### **PHILIPPINES**

In 2022, the Filipino Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii 30<sup>th</sup> Goodwill and Trade Mission to the Philippines was held with visits to Cebu (a sister with Hawaii), Manila, Pampanga and Iloilo. Although the schedule included one sister, the mission was planned to promote Filipino businesses in Hawaii. In total, there were 44 Hawaii representatives who were part of the delegation that met with counterparts in the Philippines.

In collaboration with the Filipino Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii, DBEDT is co-sponsoring the MabuhI Expo and Summit that was initially planned for 2021. Due to the uncertainties of the pandemic, the event has been delayed will be held in 2023 at the Hawaii Convention Center and is expected to attract attendees from Hawaii's sister-provinces in the Philippines.

In 2021, the Hawaii Philippines Business and Economic Council (HPBEC) held a virtual event between businesses in Hawaii and the Philippines. Thought leaders from Hawaii and the Philippines were invited to participate as speakers, panelists, moderators and

artists to discuss issues and share best practices or showcase their art works that were relevant and timely to the five pillars of Hawaii-Philippines diplomatic relations: political governance; economic cooperation; cultural exchanges; people-to-people ties; and social responsibility.

The virtual event was a project of the HPBEC, a non-profit organization incorporated in 2011 whose primary mission was to create a forum for the exchange of information and direction between Hawaii and the Philippines; promote business and economic development; and advocate for Hawaii residents who consider both the Philippines and Hawaii as home.

2021 was a landmark year—a time of recovery from the pandemic that changed the world, where technology allowed participants to dialogue and share experiences despite the restrictions imposed by COVID 19.

### **Ilocos Sur Province (1985)**

No activities reported for 2021-2022.

### **Cebu Province, Philippines (1996)**

No activities reported for 2021-2022.

### **Pangasinan Province (2002)**

No activities reported for 2021-2022.

### **Ilocos Norte Province (2005)**

No activities reported for 2021-2022.

**Isabela Province (2006)**

No activities reported for 2021-2022.

**PORTUGAL**

**Azores Islands (1982)**

No activities reported for 2022-2022.

**Madeira (202X approved, but not signed yet)**

The Hawaii Sister-State Committee was tasked by the Hawaii legislature to consider a sister-state relationship with Madeira, Portugal. The Hawaii Sister-State Committee met on November 16, 2021 to consider the application for Madeira, Portugal and Hawaii to form a sister-state relationship. This was a very strong application with many people and organizations in Hawaii and Madeira offering supporting testimony in written form and by video-conference. The Sister-State Committee made a unanimous recommendation to accept the application. DBEDT staff informed the Hawaii legislature of the Committee's decision. Due to the COVID19 pandemic an official signing ceremony has not been scheduled yet although discussions have begun with the Consulate General of Portugal in San Francisco, which covers Hawaii.